

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-11, 13-18, 20-34, 37, 38 and 46-56 were pending at the time of the Office Action. None of the pending claims are currently amended.

1. (Previously Amended) A method of selling reinsurance, comprising the steps of:

identifying a reinsurance product;
determining a capacity of the reinsurance product to be sold;
offering the reinsurance product for sale through an auction;
accepting bids for at least a portion of the capacity, wherein the step of accepting bids comprises

providing a status for the bids, the status comprising one of OK, Partial OK, and Excluded;

ranking the bids, wherein the ranking of the bids at least considers a calculated profitability value and a time stamp associated with each of the bids;
and

consummating a contract for the sale of at least a portion of the reinsurance product to holders of winning bids, wherein a status of OK denotes acceptance of a bid, a status of Partial OK denotes only a portion of requested capacity will be filled, and a status of Excluded denotes that a bid has not been accepted.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the reinsurance product is at least

one of earthquake reinsurance, windstorm reinsurance and marine catastrophe reinsurance.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the auction comprises an on-line auction.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the auction employs the Internet.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the auction is presented via a browser.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising accepting bids from at least one of direct insurers and brokers.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein bids comprise at least a bid amount and an indication of the amount of desired capacity.

8. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the calculated profitability value associated with each of the bids is calculated based a return on sales ratio.

9. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the return on sales ratio is a selling price minus a fair risk price divided by the selling price or the selling price divided by the fair risk price.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising changing a status of at least one bid.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the status is one of OK, Partial OK and Excluded.

12. (Previously Canceled).

13. (Previously Amended) A method of offering a reinsurance product, comprising the steps of:

offering a predetermined capacity in the reinsurance product over an electronic network;

receiving, from a bidder, at least one bid for at least a portion of the capacity;

determining whether a calculated profitability value of the at least one bid is acceptable; and

indicating to the bidder whether the at least one bid is accepted based at least on the calculated profitability value, wherein the step of indicating to the bidder whether the at least one bid is accepted comprises providing a status for the at least one bid, the status comprising one of OK, Partial OK, and Excluded, wherein a status of OK denotes acceptance of a bid, a status of Partial OK denotes only a portion of requested capacity will be filled, and a status of Excluded denotes that a bid has not been accepted.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the electronic network comprises the Internet.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising ranking the at least one bid with respect to other bids.

16. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the ranking is based, at least in part, on the calculated profitability value.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the ranking is based, at least in part, on a time at which the at least one bid is received.

18. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the calculated profitability value is based, at least in part, on a requested inception date and a return on sales ratio.

19. (Previously Canceled).

20. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising generating an auction ranking element for the at least one bid.

21. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein communication via the electronic network is secure.

22. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising receiving a modified bid in response to the step of indicating whether the at least one bid is accepted.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, further comprising modifying a parameter of the at least one bid other than a bid price.

24. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising calculating a minimum acceptable bid.

25. (Previously Amended) A method of selling reinsurance, comprising the steps of:

identifying a reinsurance product and a capacity of the reinsurance product to be sold;

calculating a fair risk price for the reinsurance product;

offering the reinsurance product to buyers via an electronic auction, wherein a minimum bid in the electronic auction is determined, at least in part, by the fair risk price;

receiving bids from the buyers for portions of the capacity of the reinsurance product;

ranking the bids, wherein the ranking of the bids at least considers a calculated profitability value and a time stamp associated with each of the bids;

notifying the buyers of a status of their respective bids; and

ending the electronic auction after a predetermined period of time, wherein the status comprises one of OK, Partial OK, and Excluded, wherein a status of OK denotes acceptance of a bid, a status of Partial OK denotes only a portion of requested capacity will be filled, and a status of Excluded denotes that a bid has not been accepted.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the reinsurance product comprises at least one of earthquake reinsurance, windstorm reinsurance and marine catastrophe reinsurance.

27. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the fair risk price is calculated based on historical data.

28. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the electronic auction is offered via the Internet.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the electronic auction is offered via a web browser.

30. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the buyers comprise at least one of direct insurers and insurance brokers.

31. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein bids comprise a plurality of parameters.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein the parameters comprise at least one of price, inception date and a deductible.

33. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the calculated profitability value associated with each of the bids is calculated based a return on sales ratio.

34. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 33, wherein the return on sales ratio is a selling price minus the fair risk price divided by the selling price or the selling price divided by the fair risk price.

35. (Previously Canceled).

36. (Previously Canceled).

37. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 25, further comprising changing the status of a first bid from OK to one of Partial OK and Excluded, based on a ranking of a second bid.

38. (Original) The method of claim 25, further comprising consummating a reinsurance contract between an operator of the electronic auction and a buyer having a winning bid.

39-45. (Previously Canceled).

46. (Previously Amended) A system for selling a reinsurance product, comprising:
a fair risk price calculator;

an auction and auction participant database;

an auction ranking element engine; and

a web server in communication with the Internet, wherein the fair risk price calculator provides information for calculating a minimum bid, the database stores information related to at least one auction for at least one reinsurance product, and the auction ranking element engine is operable to rank bids submitted to the database via the web server, wherein the ranking of the bids at least considers a calculated profitability value and a time stamp associated with each of the bids, wherein the auction ranking element engine provides a status of a bid, and wherein a status of OK denotes acceptance of a bid, a status of Partial OK denotes only a portion of requested capacity will be filled, and a status of Excluded denotes that a bid has not been accepted.

47. (Original) The system of claim 46, wherein the reinsurance product is at least one of earthquake reinsurance, windstorm reinsurance and marine catastrophe reinsurance.

48. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 46, wherein the calculated profitability value associated with each of the bids is calculated based a return on sales ratio.

49. (Original) The system of claim 46, wherein direct insurers submit bids to the web server.

50. (Original) The system of claim 46, wherein a submitted bid comprises a bid amount and a desired coverage amount.

51. (Original) The system of claim 50, wherein the auction ranking element engine determines whether the sufficient capacity remains to satisfy the desired coverage amount.

52. (Original) The system of claim 46, wherein the system is operated by or on behalf of a reinsurance company.

53. (Original) The system of claim 46, wherein the direct insurers participate as bidders for the reinsurance product.

54. (Previously Amended) A method of selling a product, comprising the steps of:

(a) identifying the product;

(b) determining a capacity of the product to be sold;

(c) offering the product for sale through auction;

(d) accepting bids for at least a portion of the capacity, wherein the step of accepting bids comprises providing a status for the bids, the status comprising one of OK, Partial OK, and Excluded;

(e) ranking the bids, wherein the ranking of the bids at least considers a calculated profitability value and a time stamp associated with each of the bids; and

(d) consummating a contract for the sale of at least a portion of the product to holders of winning bids, wherein a status OK denotes acceptance of a bid, a status of Partial OK denotes only a portion of requested capacity will be filled, and a status of Excluded denotes that a bid has not been accepted.

55. (Original) The method of claim 54, wherein the product is a reinsurance product.

56. (Original) The method of claim 54, wherein the product is a risk shifting product.